

CIA/OGCR/PN 61.2684/75 ITEM 002

UNCLASSIFIED--PRC CITY BRIEF  
HANG-CHOU

CIA JUL75

01 OF 01

CIA/OGCR/PN 61.2684/75

ITEM 002

# PRC CITY BRIEF

Hang-chou 杭州



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CIA/OGCR/GD  
PN 61.2684/75  
01975

HANG-CHOU (Hangchow)  
(pronounced hong joe)

Chinese romanized system of spelling:	Hangzhou																									
Meaning in Chinese:	city across the river																									
Location:	30°15'N 120°10'E (approx. latitude of Jacksonville, Florida)																									
Elevation:	36 feet above sea level																									
Population:	750,000 (estimated)																									
Climate:	<table><thead><tr><th></th><th><u>Jan</u></th><th><u>April</u></th><th><u>July</u></th><th><u>Oct</u></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Mean daily maximum temperature (°F)</td><td>46</td><td>69</td><td>93</td><td>74</td></tr><tr><td>Mean daily minimum temperature (°F)</td><td>32</td><td>52</td><td>76</td><td>57</td></tr><tr><td>Mean number of days with precipitation</td><td>12</td><td>15</td><td>12</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Mean monthly precipitation (inches)</td><td>2.7</td><td>5.4</td><td>5.9</td><td>3.1</td></tr></tbody></table>		<u>Jan</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Oct</u>	Mean daily maximum temperature (°F)	46	69	93	74	Mean daily minimum temperature (°F)	32	52	76	57	Mean number of days with precipitation	12	15	12	10	Mean monthly precipitation (inches)	2.7	5.4	5.9	3.1
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## HANG-CHOU

### General

Hang-chou, included on the itinerary of most foreign dignitaries visiting the Peoples Republic of China (PRC), is the most renowned tourist city in the country. Rich in historic heritage and, in Chinese opinion, unsurpassed in tranquility and beauty, it has been a resort for the rich and the political elite for centuries. Although many of the city's religious monuments were destroyed by Mongol invaders in the 12th century and by T'ai-p'ing insurgents in the 19th, its catalog of remaining archaeological attractions is still impressive. In addition to its role as a tourist center and resort, Hang-chou is the capital of Chekiang Province and also has a number of small but significant industries, principally silk and handicrafts manufacture and tea processing.

The appearance of most sections of Hang-chou has changed little for centuries: narrow streets of stone or brick, jammed with pedestrians and a galaxy of conveyances, are lined with the crowded houses, shops, and markets typical of all Chinese cities. Only a few of the picturesque arched bridges and canals remain that so impressed Marco Polo. Newly constructed apartment complexes, schools, government buildings, and industrial installations, many of them fronting on broad tree-lined boulevards, present modern facades in some areas. The Red Sun Exhibition Hall, the Chekiang Gymnasium, several institutions of higher learning, and a growing heavy industrial complex, for example, have markedly changed the landscape in the northern part of the city. While the visitor will undoubtedly be given a tour of these present-day attractions in the city proper, it is the fabled Hsi Hu (West Lake), directly to the west, that has captivated travelers to China for centuries. Its lushly gardened shores and islands and its backdrop of wooded hills abound in a rich display of religious structures, many of them more than 1,000 years old.

Rail lines form the major transport links between Hang-chou and other parts of the country. The city is not a major port although located near the mouth of the Ch'ien-t'ang Chiang, where it flows into an embayment of the East China Sea. Shallow water at low tide and dangerous tidal bores at the full moon limit the port's use to barges and other shallow draft vessels. The 1,400-year-old Yun Ho (Grand Canal), which connects with the Yangtze

River 200 miles to the north, is used primarily by small craft for local transport.

Although Hang-chou is located at approximately the same latitude as Jacksonville, Florida, and both are east coast cities, Hang-chou's climate differs from that of the Florida city. Winters are cooler, with temperatures usually rising to no more than 50°F during the day and dropping to the freezing mark at night, and are likely to have prolonged spells of gloomy weather. About 4 winter days out of 10 have some form of precipitation, including occasional snow but most of the 62 inches of yearly precipitation falls during spring and in the hot and humid summer. Autumns are pleasant with relatively little rain.

The visitor to Hang-chou will live in style and comfort since the city has an abundance of good hotels. The Hang-chou Hotel, on the north shore of West Lake, is especially comfortable and popular among foreign guests.

### History

The extension of the Grand Canal southward from the Yangtze to Hang-chou late in the sixth century converted Hang-chou from a small fishing village into a bustling commercial center. Its further growth was assured as the fertile lower Yangtze region supplanted North China as the nation's premier agricultural region. The loss of North China to Mongol invaders in the 12th century hastened Hang-chou's rise to preeminence as it was designated the capital of the Southern Sung Dynasty, thereby further abetting the city's commercial importance. The building of religious structures, many of which still stand today, boomed during this era of commercial and political prosperity.

Although parts of Hang-chou were sacked during the late 13th century Mongol invasion, the city's importance did not diminish. Its function as a trade center combined with the splendor of its religious monuments continued to attract merchants and adventurers -- including Marco Polo -- from all over the world. Visitors used superlatives to describe Hang-chou's size, the grandeur of its buildings, the attractions of its markets, and its sybaritic pleasures.

Hang-chou's political and commercial importance was dramatically ended by the savage T'ai-p'ing Rebellion in the mid-19th century. Much of the city was reduced to ashes, many of the religious structures that had stood for centuries were damaged or destroyed, and thousands of its inhabitants were slaughtered.

The city slowly recovered and has been rebuilt and it remains a favored vacation center for Chinese leaders to this day. Many of the former villas of wealthy Chinese on the shores of West Lake and in the surrounding hills have been converted into rest homes and hotels or into vacation retreats for government officials, including Chairman Mao.

#### Present-Day Hang-chou

Many of the attractions around the shores of West Lake can be reached on foot from the Hang-chou Hotel. A walk along the tree-shaded paths that encircle the lake passes through beautifully landscaped gardens containing temples, pagodas, and monuments. The most favorable of the viewpoints around the lake, known by the Chinese as the "Ten Scenic Views," are shown on the accompanying picto map. These sites have been landscaped so that certain views are best observed not only at specified times of the day but at prescribed seasons of the year as well. The Tuan-ch'iao Ts'ang-hsueh (Remnant of Snow at the Interrupting Bridge), for example, is considered most beautiful in winter when snow is present on the nearby wooded hills; others are best viewed in the spring or autumn. Early summer, when the trees are green and the flowers in bloom, is the optimum season to visit West Lake.

West Lake's islands, like her shoreline, are covered with an intriguing array of religious structures in beautiful settings. Ku Shan (Lonely Hill), the largest island, is linked by causeways to the shore. The smaller islands can be reached only by boat. A fleet of canvas-topped sampans plies the lake, docking in front of the Hang-chou Hotel and at other points along the shore. San-t'an Yin-yueh Island (Three Pools that Mirror the Moon) is one of the "Ten Scenic Views." The light from three stone lanterns erected just off shore during the Ming Dynasty reflects on the lake like three moons.

Monasteries and pagodas perched on peaks, Buddhas carved in rock cliffs, and caves at the base of the hills containing statues carved more than 900 years ago are among the attractions that lure the tourist away from the lake. The seven-tiered Pao-shu T'a (Needle Pagoda or Precious Stone Hill) is the most prominent feature rising above the hilltops. First erected in the 10th century, it was last rebuilt only 40 years ago. The best view of the lake and city is from the Sunrise Terrace on Ko-ling Hill, west of Precious Stone Hill.

A number of especially attractive monasteries, temples, and pagodas are located in the higher hills west and south of the lake.

The Ling-yin Ssu (Monastery of the Souls Retreat), to the west, is the largest and best known monastery in Hang-chou. It was established in the fourth century A.D. Its Hall of Heavenly Kings, restored in 1956, contains an 82-foot-high carved Buddha. Another popular attraction is the 200-foot Liu-ho T'a (Six Harmonies Pagoda), atop a hill overlooking the Ch'ien-t'ang Chiang. Originally built in the hope that its cosmic forces would deflect the huge waves of the powerful tidal bore that invades the river during the full moon, it has served more effectively as a lighthouse.

The tidal bore surges up the constricted channel of the Ch'ien-t'ang Chiang in a wall of water as high as 30 feet and at speeds of more than 15 miles per hour during the autumn equinox, rivaling in its force the tidal bore of the Bay of Fundy. Sight-seers line the river banks in September to view this spectacular sight.

Hang-chou's industry, small and primitive before World War II, has been expanded and modernized under the PRC regime. Today a sizable industrial complex includes the long established manufacture of silk and handicrafts as well as the more recently introduced production of iron and steel, machine tools, chemical fertilizer, cement, and petroleum products. The manufacture of silk textiles continues to be the major industry of Hang-chou, as it has been for at least 600 years. Foreign visitors are usually taken on a tour of the Tu-chin-sheng Silk Mill, where woven portraits of Communists leaders and Revolutionary scenes are produced as well as more traditionally patterned brocades. The mill employs 1,700 workers, uses 300 electric looms, and produces 20,000 square yards of brocade each year.

Tea, Hang-chou's major agricultural product, is grown on terraced hillsides southwest of the city. Known as Lung-ching (Dragon Well) tea, it is famous throughout the country for its mellow taste and pleasant aroma. The tea is picked and processed by the more than 1,300 members of the Tea Production Brigade of the West Lake People's Commune, a showpiece of Communist enterprise on the itinerary of most visitors to the city.





Na  
(Sou

五夫山

u-ho T'a  
onies Pagoda)

Yu-huang Sha  
de Emperor's Moun

in-ping Hill

Ching-t'zu Ssu  
re Compassion Monastery)

Nan Hu

Yin-po Ch'iao  
(Reflecting Waves Bridge)

Hua-kang Kuan-yu  
(Viewing Fish at  
Flower Harbor)

So-lan Ch'iao  
(Locking Waves Bridge)

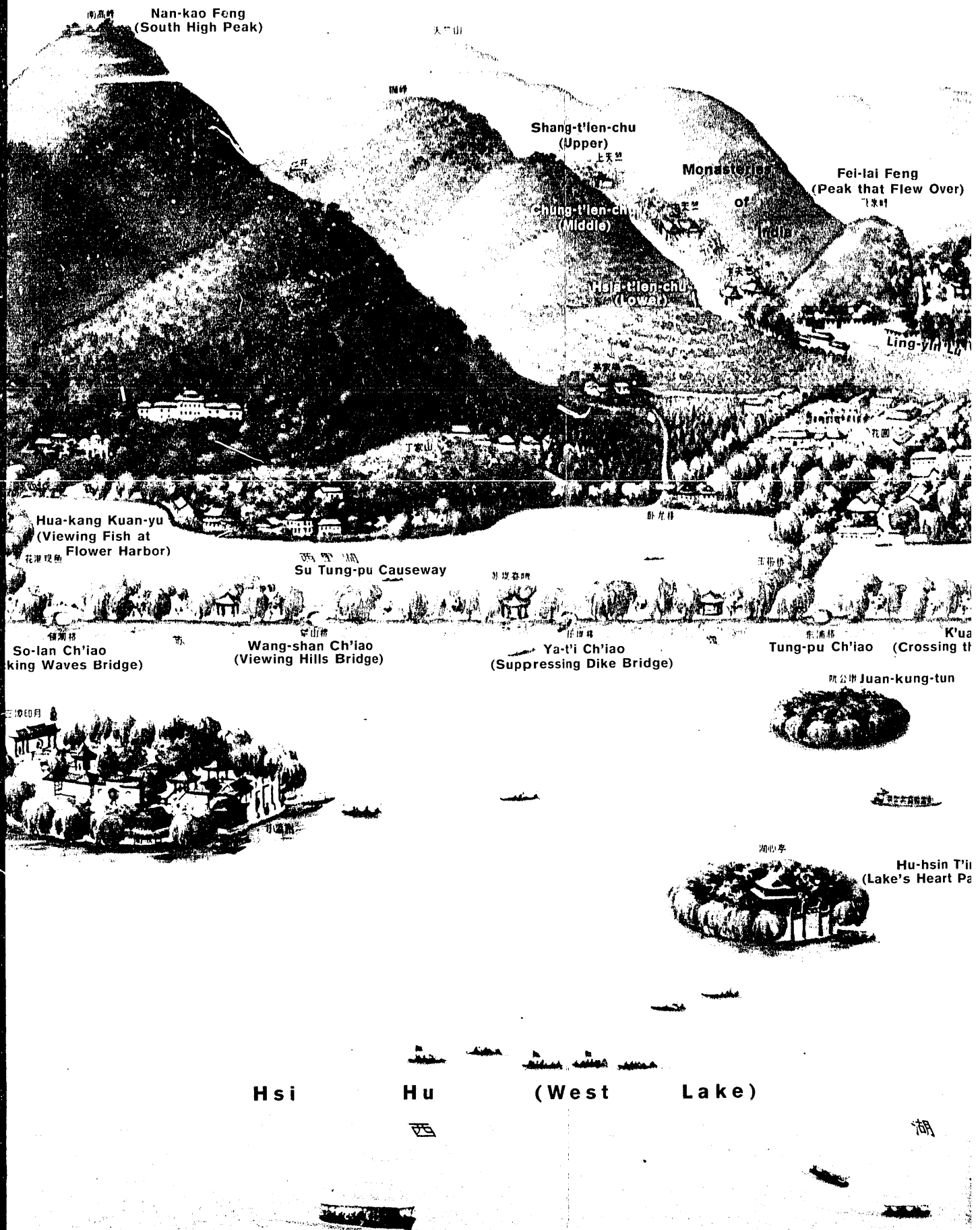
Inset Hill

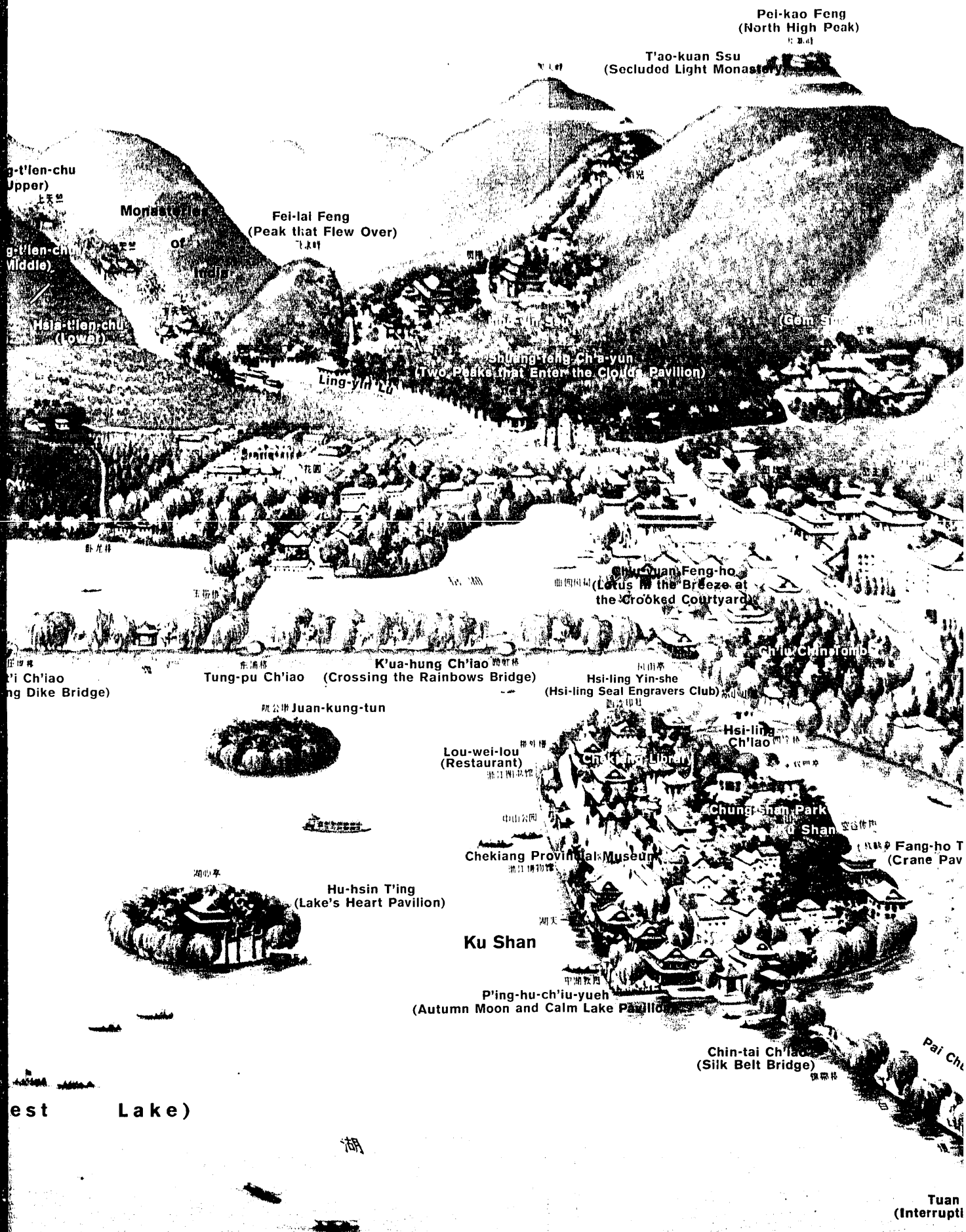
San-t'an Yin-yueh  
(Three Pools that  
Mirror the Moon)

Ching-nan Park

Liu-lang-wen Ying Park

Yung-chin Park





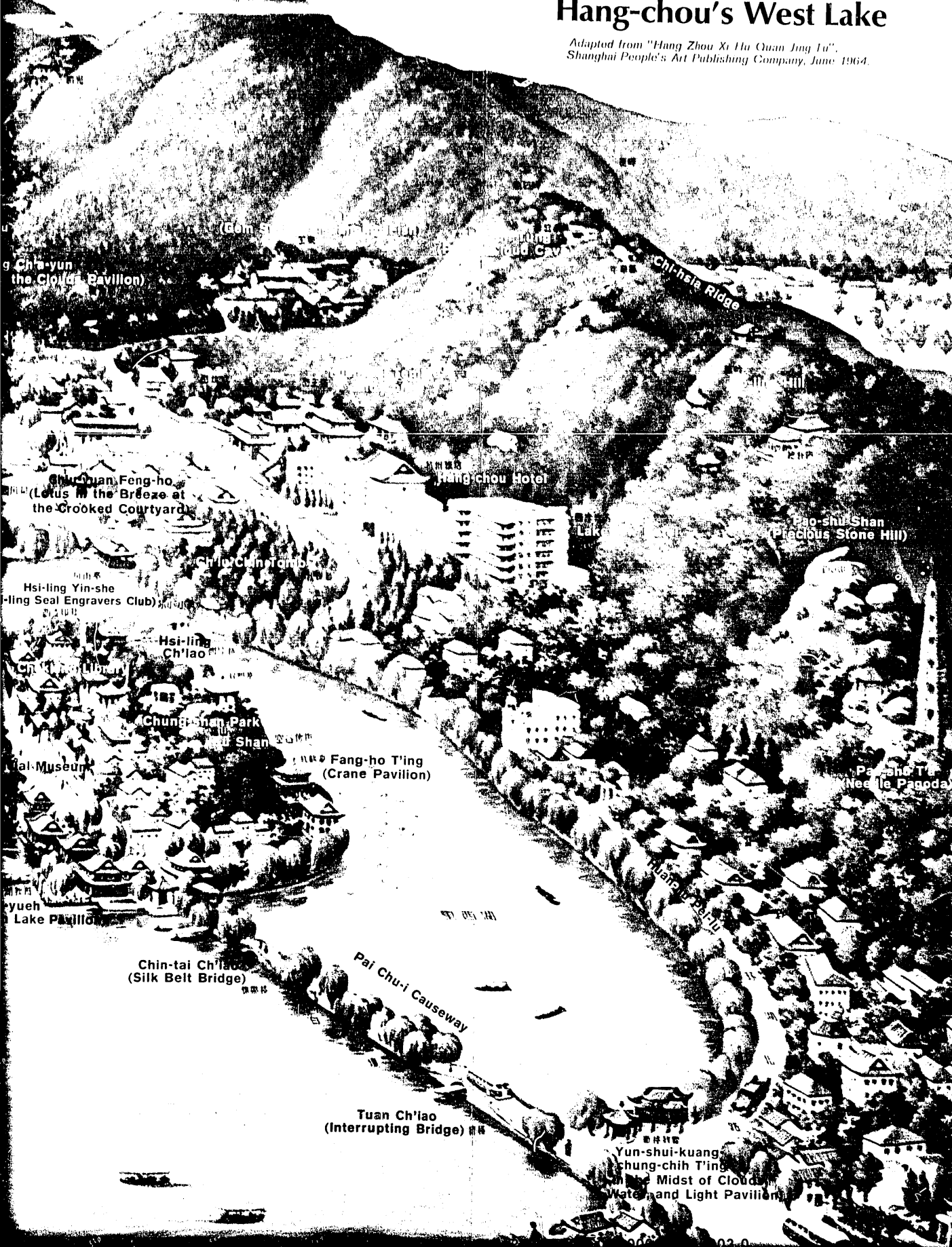
Pei-kao Feng  
(North High Peak)

T'ao-kuan Ssu  
(Secluded Light Monastery)

# 杭州西湖

## Hang-chou's West Lake

Adapted from "Hang Zhou Xi Hu Quan Jing Tu",  
Shanghai People's Art Publishing Company, June 1964.

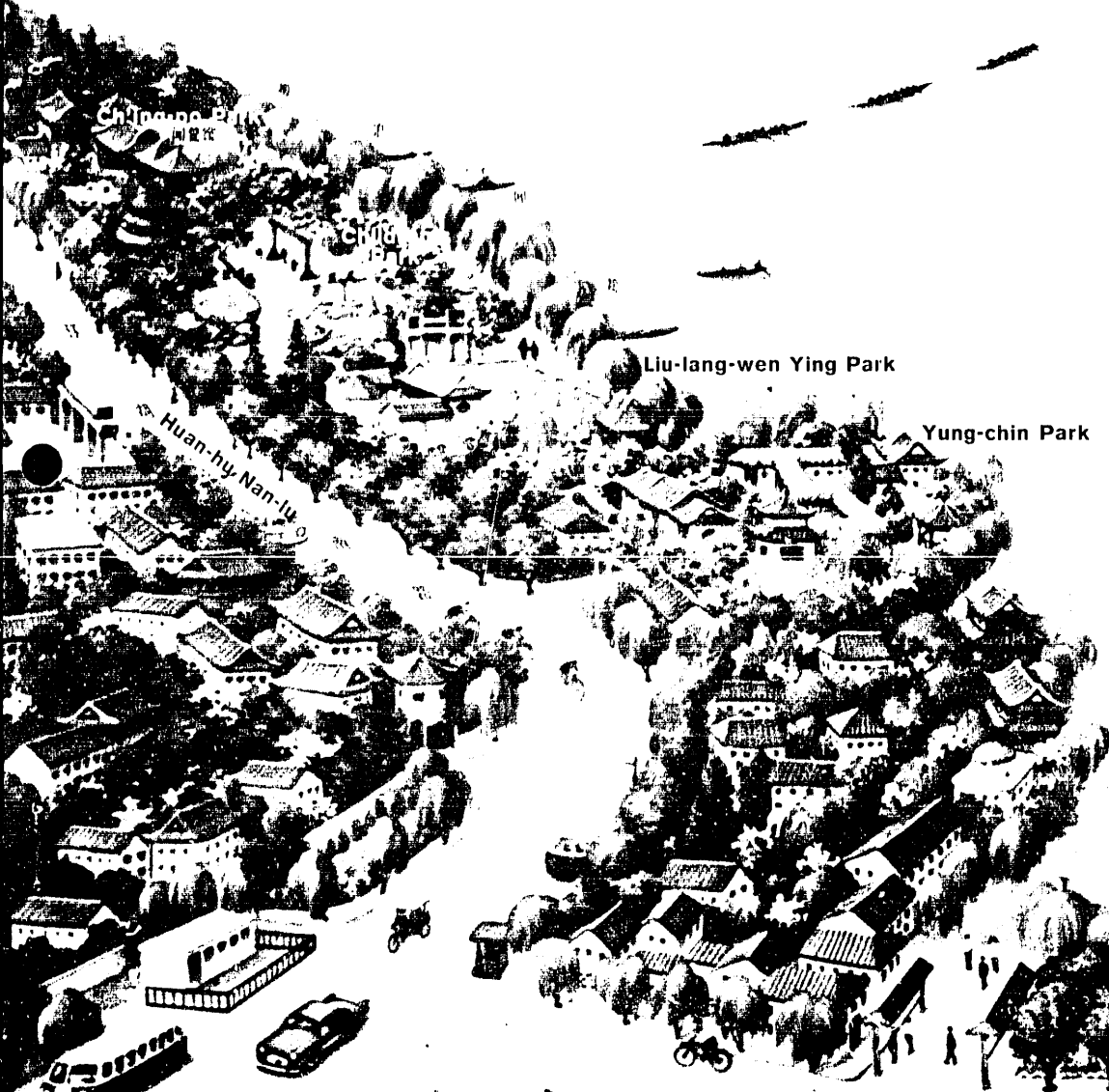
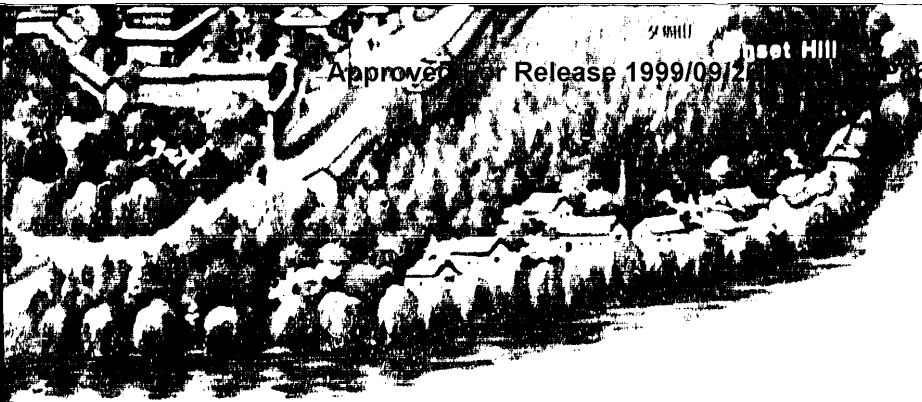


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Hot Hill

6T00608R60060013000300

(Three Pools that  
Mirror the Moon)



Liu-lang-wen Ying Park

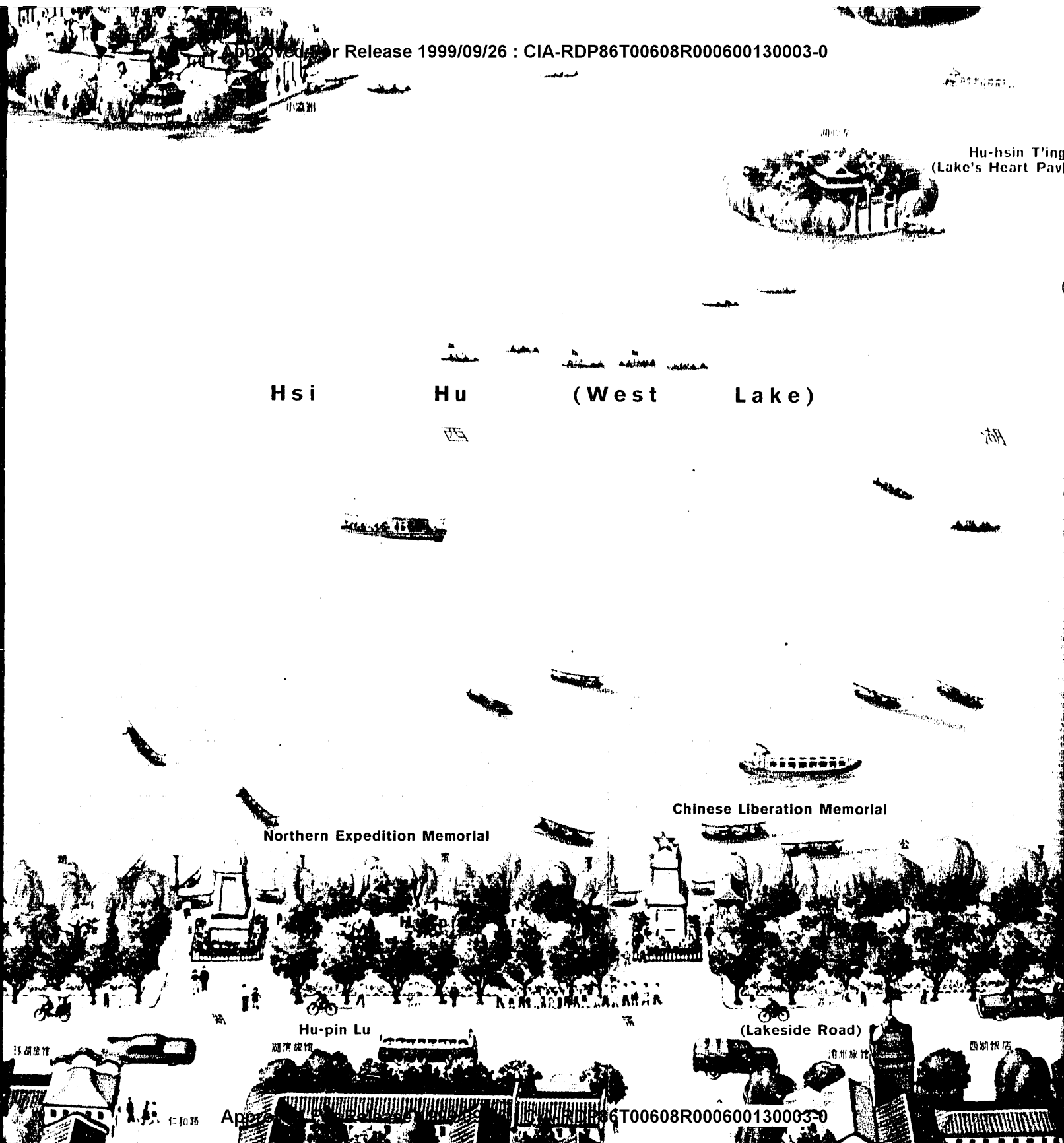
Yung-chin Park

解放街

浙江路

南京路

湖南路





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Lou-wei-tou  
(Restaurant)

Chekiang Provincial Museum

Hu-hsin T'ing  
(Lake's Heart Pavilion)

Ku Shan

P'ing-hu-ch'iu-yueh  
(Autumn Moon and Calm Lake Pavilion)

Chin-tai Ch'iao  
(Silk Belt Bridge)

Fang-ho  
(Crane P)

est Lake)

Tua  
(Interrup

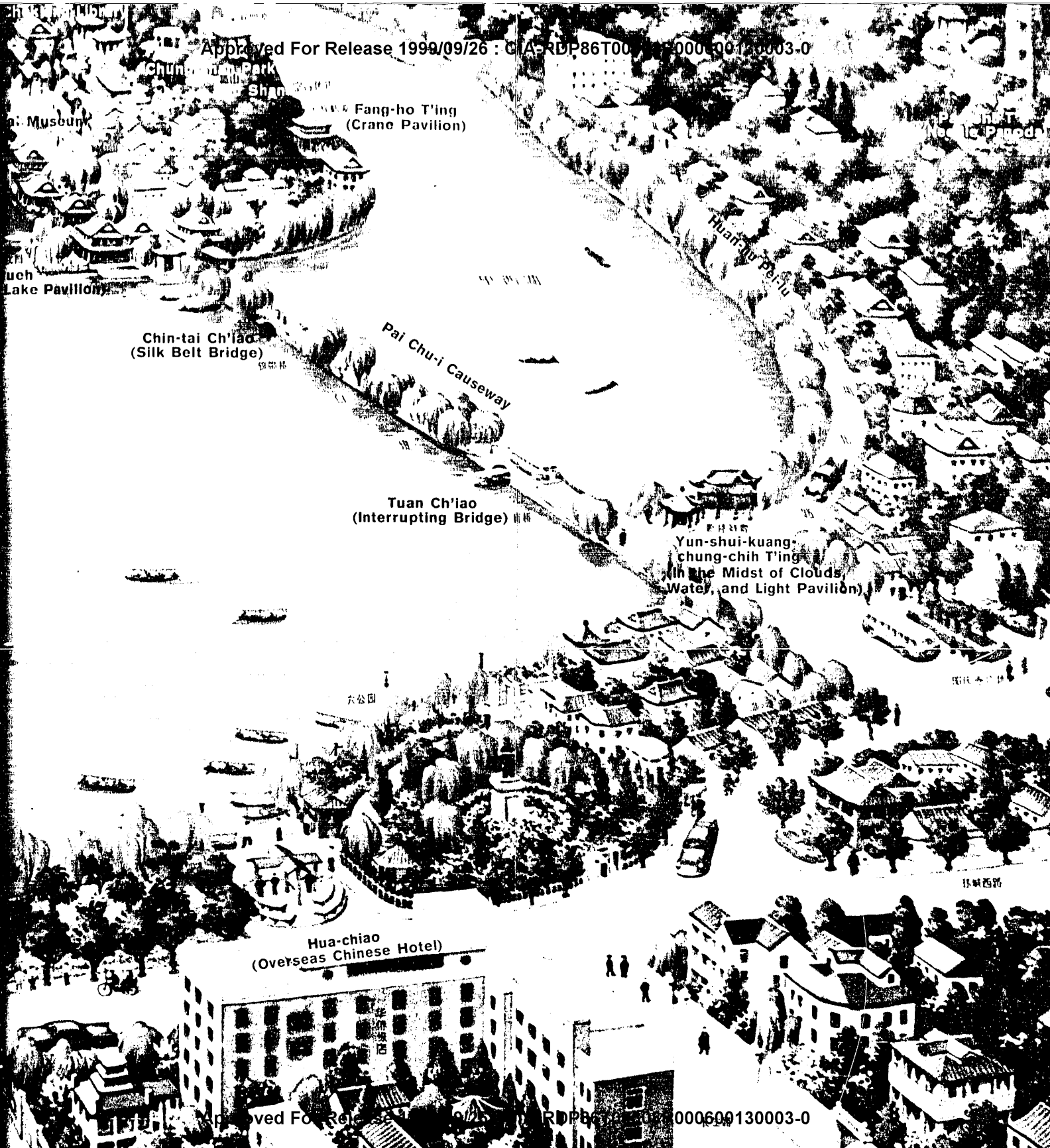
Chinese Liberation Memorial

(Lakeside Road)

Hua-chiao  
(Overseas Chinese Ho

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Chun-shan Park

Shan

Fang-ho T'ing  
(Crane Pavilion)

Museum

uch  
Lake Pavilion

Chin-tai Ch'iao  
(Silk Belt Bridge)

Pai Chu-i Causeway

Tuan Ch'iao  
(Interrupting Bridge)

Yun-shui-kuang-  
chung-chih T'ing  
(In the Midst of Clouds,  
Water, and Light Pavilion)

Hua-chiao  
(Overseas Chinese Hotel)

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